

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Entered in the postoffice at Ontario, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

W. C. MARSH



An Important Question.

An article by Professor Moses, one of the most distinguished men of today illustrates in a clear and disinterested manner that our government has reached a point where officialism and regulation are slowly but surely leading us toward an oligarchic and bureaucratic rule where private initiative will be discouraged. As free American citizens do we want this state of affairs? We do not. Government regulation and control have run wild for the past ten years until today private capital and enterprise are afraid, hence the decline in our industrial activity and the resultant army of unemployed men and women. The intelligence of the American people is unlimited and they will correct this state of affairs as soon as they are fully aware of it. The time has arrived when the public should be informed on these matters and we should all take down our school history and read over once again the constitution of the United States so that we can intelligently try to get back to the fundamental principles of our government. In other words a government of the office holders for the office holders and by the office holders should be relegated to a back shelf.

Few men in this country are better qualified to talk on all that pertains to government than Professor Moses. For close on to forty years he held the chair of political sciences and history in the University of California. As one of a notable commission, when the Philippines became a United States possession, he was sent to establish there a civil government, with Judge W. H. Taft, who was to become president of the United States, as chairman of the commission. Between the years of 1906 and 1910 he was sent to South America on affairs of state—as minister Plenipotentiary, as member of the American Scientific Congress, Santiago de Chile, and as delegate of the International Conference of American States at Buenos Ayres. In between he found time to contribute scientific articles to the leading magazines, and to write such notable treatises as "Federal Government in Switzerland," "Democracy and Social Growth of America," "The Establishment of Spanish Rule in America," "The Railway Revolution in Mexico," "The Establishment of Municipal Government in San Francisco," "South America on the Eve of Emancipation," "The Government of the United States." He has just completed his greatest and latest work, "The Spanish Dependencies in South America."

"All my life," said Professor Moses, "has been devoted to acquiring accuracy. The least inaccuracy in quoting me inflicts an injury exactly as a physical wound. Your request for an opinion respecting the tendency of public affairs in California is embarrassing. Knowing little about the happenings in California during my recent years of absence abroad, of course, I was naturally more or less shocked on arriving in New York City to hear persons speaking about California as being even more radical than populist Oklahoma. Their notion seemed to be that in attempting to bring about a larger measure of equality California was to be ruled by an aristocracy, or an oligarchy of commissions."

"We must not mistake popular government for representative government. The makers of the government of the United States had the reasonable idea of constructing a government in which the laws should be made by intelligent persons selected for that purpose by their fellow citizens. In departing from that plan, we run the risk of substituting the commission government for a representative government. The evils of such a change will not be manifest at first. It will only make its appearance if the commission should be appointed by some power not the people. Then it will develop its real bureaucratic character."

Popular government may defeat itself like a machine in which the friction counteracts all the power that is applied to it. Whenever the machinery of government becomes cumbersome, or difficult to operate, by reason of elaborate and roundabout methods, and the unwieldy multitude of persons involved in its activity; by doubling the number of voters, as with women's suffrage, without raising the average political intelligence and by frequent appeals to the whole body of the people for the decision of important and far reaching questions, as in this last election, where you say the people were expected to vote on some forty-eight propositions, couched in involved and highly legal terms, and any one of which was a task for a specialist, the social friction of the government has reached a point where in the course of time a modification of the method of operating will be found to be necessary.

"An early step in this modification will be a decline in the estimate of the significance or importance of the popular vote. Already not only here, but also in other parts of the Republic, there is manifest a desire to remove the vital and practical operations of government farther than ever before from the great body of the citizens. This is illustrated not only in commission-governed cities, but also in commission-governed transportation and commission-governed banks. You state that the Railroad Commission includes within its jurisdiction all public utility corporations of gas, light, power and street railway.

"This movement is undoubtedly in the line of greater efficiency but it does not lead towards that ideal democracy, which is said to be the end sought in the social agitation of the present.

Even the voters themselves, in their most expanded ranks, help on the movement towards oligarchic, or bureaucratic rule, particularly when they take away from the inhabitants of towns the right to regulate certain matters of traffic within their own borders and confer it upon an autocratic commission, the members of which may never have seen the town in question. This is not a strange phenomenon, for some of the most grinding tyrannies that ever oppressed a people were set up by popular vote. It is undoubtedly true that you cannot fool all the people all the time, but you can fool a sufficient number of them from time to time if you present for their acceptance or rejection a large number of laws or amendments to laws, complicated, and far-reaching in their effects, and written in the involved and technical language which few persons besides the courts have the ability to understand thoroughly.

"The extension of the suffrage, the referendum and the recall are designed to maintain equality—how otherwise may it be maintained?" he was asked.

"The equality you are thinking of," replied Professor Moses, "can be maintained, I fancy, only under conditions that do not admit of social progress. The inhabitants of some of the mountain canyons of Switzerland maintain a good degree of equality. No one can become rich. And all have about the same amounts of property and essentially the same occupation. If they had more abundant opportunities, some would become richer than the rest, and with their riches would come different occupations, better opportunities for education, and a style of living that the rest could not afford. Social inequality is an incident of progress, and cannot be eliminated from social growth."

Hog Business in Peril.

From figures recently compiled at the Portland Union Stockyards, it would appear that unless there is a radical change on the part of the farmers in the handling of the hog business, in a short time Oregon will be right back in the position occupied a few years ago—almost no breeding stock on hand, record breaking prices in the local market on account of the inevitable shortage of supply and another hurry call on the Middle West for brood sows to restock the empty pens. And this deplorable condition is being brought about by the present abnormally high price of wheat, and also by the fact that a large number of hog raisers throughout the State neglect to grow the necessary feed on which to finish their crop of pork and on which the surplus stock can be economically carried through the winter.

During a period of seven consecutive days, ending the past week, 12,000 hogs were received at the Portland yards, only a small percentage of which were really fit for killing, the balance apparently having been shipped to avoid the expense of carrying them until spring. The certain result of these excessive shipments will be a ruinous falling off in values, a wiping out of the hog surplus of last Fall. Oregon soil and climate is suited to the production of corn, field peas and alfalfa, all of which are splendid hog feed, and until the farmer plants more extensively of these crops and thus makes himself independent of outside assistance, the hog industry will be at the mercy of any influence which may effect the prices of wheat and other grains in the Northwest.

Railroads Must Now Help Local Territory.

A new policy in regard to interior development by the transcontinental railroads may be expected. Heretofore the policy of the railroads has been to build up the terminals so as to insure a good freight traffic across the continent. The interior points were left to work out their own development and consequently we find the coasts far in advance of the interior. Of course it is natural that the coasts should be somewhat farther ahead than the interior but as it is now the interior has been neglected to a great degree.

Now a new condition confronts the railroads. Since the opening of the Panama canal, freight from coast to coast has been going that way. It was always known that it would be cheaper to ship by water as water transportation is the cheapest in the world. But that it would be a saving of time also was never expected, but such is the case and the consequence is that the railroads have lost most of their transcontinental freight traffic.

Now in order to make up for this deficiency the railroads will have to reverse their policy of building up the terminals instead of the interior. Their source of revenue from now on will be the interior and so their policy will be to develop the interior. They will foster and encourage new industries, develop new districts, build feeders to their main lines and encourage colonization. The development in the next ten years should surpass that of the last fifty.

How to Help Industries.

(Communicated.)

Some politicians can think of nothing but passing new labor laws, or taxing banks or corporations or industries.

Some can think of nothing but appropriations for boards and commissions, and creation of new offices by law.

The State Mining Bureau and Geological Survey wants \$50,000 and that would not be so bad if industries resulted.

But with the Blue Sky Law hampering mining operations, and refusal of the State to use Oregon stone on public buildings, what is the use?

If the architect and State boards in charge of public work would co-operate and help use Oregon building material, the investment of \$50,000 in a State mining bureau might not be so bad.

There is no co-operation on the part of officials to boost Oregon industries when public money is expended, but they all co-operate when it comes to boosting appropriations.

Here is a pointer for some of those who want big appropriations: Oregon is loaded to the guards with officials and commissions, and is weak in industries and loyalty to real Oregon interests.

A New Institution of Learning.

A course of study in one of the most practical and useful professions is now open to the young women of this district, since the school of nursing has been established in the Holy Rosary Hospital. No tuition is charged and pupils may enter at any time so that the opportunity can be embraced by all.

About three thousand dollars is spent every year for nursing in Ontario which has been paid mostly to outside nurses, now it will be paid to local nurses, which it ought to be.

Another advantage this school will bring is that girls wishing instruction in nursing will not have to go to Boise, Portland, or some other town for it. In past years several such cases have occurred and much useless expense has been incurred. Ontario is to be congratulated on this educational institution.

The Real Economy Program.

The big reform bills to reduce overhead expenses half a million were introduced last week at Salem.

There are five big measures to consolidate boards and commissions and abolish useless functions.

One of these bills will consolidate all the medical boards and commissions and State Board of Health.

Another is to put all the domestic animal and live stock inspection boards under one head—animal industry.

Six boards of regents and commissions dealing with higher education are to be consolidated into one Board of Education.

These bills are backed by a joint committee on consolidation measures, headed by Speaker Selling and President Thompson.

SAVING TIME by TELEPHONE



Means Not Only Time But Money.

Do you ever consider how long it takes to travel the distance from your house to the Doctor and Merchant and what time you save by telephoning? If your time is worth anything, you cannot afford to be without a Telephone.

Malheur Home Telephone Co.

Ready For Business

We Have Moved

to the Farley Building, one door north of our old location, and are ready to supply your wants with

the best quality of drug store goods at right prices

It is our purpose to carry the most complete line of Drugs and Sundries in Eastern Oregon and

we solicit your patronage

Hill's Pharmacy